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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
Information Service
821 Market Street, Room 609
San Francisco 3, California

In cooperation with the
Federal-State Market News Servic

WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Sept. 6, 1946)

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 3 -- Watermelons, Honeydew melons, prunes and grapes are the week's best fruit buys. Second on the list of good buys are apples, cantaloups, peaches, pears, and lemons.

Grape prices are slightly higher than last week. But prune prices are still pretty low and it's about the last call of the season for canning.

Apples in plentiful supply are a fair buy. Supplies, quality, and prices on cantaloups are about the same as for last week. While the season on California peaches is about over, there are some coming in from Oregon and Washington. Prices are higher. However, pears are still a fairly good buy and lemons are lower priced.

The ceiling price on grapefruit is now off with the larger sizes bringing a higher price. Small sizes continue to sell at about the same price as last week.

Both avocados and nectarines are scarce and high.

To head the list of best vegetable buys, there is a plentiful supply of eggplant at a low price, along with dry onions and low priced Bell peppers.

Both cabbage and cauliflower are fair buys at unchanged prices. Good quality celery is right in price and another fair buy. Cucumbers are slightly higher priced but are still selling at a low price and are a fair buy. The lettuce and tomatoes on the market now are of pretty good quality and can also be classed as fairly good buys.

Potatoes have come down from the good buy to fairly good buy class. Prices are about the same, but the quality of all potatoes, including the first shipment of Klamath, Oregon potatoes to arrive this morning, is not top notch.

(MORE)

On the South San Francisco wholesale livestock market, receipts of all classes of livestock this week are about equal to those of a week ago. Wholesale prices are lower with cattle and calves down 50 cents to one dollar per hundred pounds. Hog prices have fluctuated but are lower, while sheep prices are 50 cents to$2.00 less than they were.

Light but adequate supplies of butter on the wholesale market are chiefly of Grade "B" quality. Although prices are up some, demand remains good.

Top quality eggs are still favorites among light receipts. Cold storage stocks are being used freely. On Thursday, August 29, wholesale prices on Grade "AA" Large eggs went up 4 cents per dozen, while Grade "A" Large and Mediums took a 2-cent price increase.

On the wholesale poultry market, lighter supplies of young chickens are in good demand, especially the live birds. Prices are up from 1 to 4 cents per pound. Demand is improving for fairly heavy receipts of older poultry. Young turkeys are coming to market at a steadily faster tempo, with wholesale prices around 44 to 45 cents per pound.

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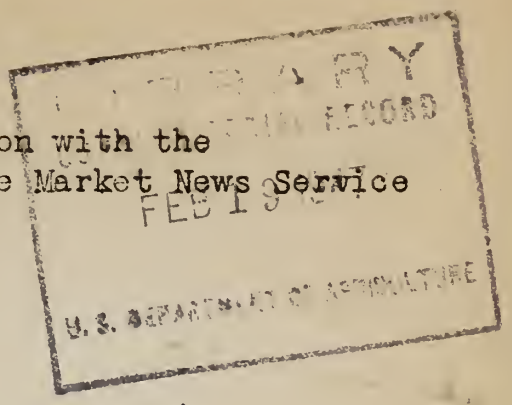

WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Sept. 13, 1946)

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 10 -- Apples -- just in time to get into that school lunch basket -- are in plentiful supply this week. Such fall varieties as Jonathans, Delicious, Bellflower, and the King David, are making their appearance as good companions to the Gravenstein.

Grapes are abundant at the same prices.

Among the good melon buys are Persians at unchanged prices and watermelons, along with a fairly heavy supply of lower priced cantaloups.

Pears are in moderate supply and a fair buy. The season on plums, prunes, and California peaches is about at an end. But Oregon and Washington peaches are coming in in heavier supply and are a pretty good buy now.

Among the citrus fruits, large sized grapefruit are scarce and high. The ceiling price on large oranges has been raised, but lemons remain about the same.

Bell peppers and cucumbers are still plentiful at low prices, and with lettuce and tomatoes in the fair buy class, we have the makings of a good salad.

Onions and eggplant are plentifuls to add zest to fall meals.

All potatoes are a fairly good buy, and in addition, it's good to know that those coming in from Klamath, Oregon, are improved in quality.

Both cabbage and celery remain fair buys at unchanged prices, while cauliflower is slightly higher priced than last week.

As the fall season becomes daily more evident, it's good news to hear that both sweet potatoes and yams are more plentiful at prices below the old ceiling.

(MORE)

Two holidays, along with the restoration of ceiling prices, are principal causes for the lessened flow of livestock this past week to the South San Francisco wholesale market. Receipts total only about one-third of those the previous week. This in terms of fresh meat on the market means that there is considerably less. Beef is mostly Utility to Commercial cow beef. A very light volume of veal is running about Utility to Choice in grade. The lamb slaughter is mostly of Utility to Good grade, while ewe mutton is in only moderate demand and there's very little of it. Fresh pork trickles to market in Medium to Good grades.

There's very little butter on the market, but prices are about the same as for last week.

Eggs are in good demand, while wholesale supplies of fresh eggs are barely adequate to meet needs. Wholesale prices on Grade "AA" Large eggs are up 2 to 4 cents per dozen from a week ago and 2 cents on Grade "A" Large and Medium eggs.

A plentiful supply of fowl, especially small Leghorns, can be found on the poultry market, but the supply is beginning to taper off. Young chickens are scarce, with wholesale prices up 1 to 2 cents per pound. Turkey supplies are becoming heavier. This week wholesale prices are down a little at 40 cents per pound (dressed) on young toms and 44 cents on hens.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Sept. 20, 1946)

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 17--Large, luscious bunches of grapes in plentiful supply are always good in the month of September and are the week's best fruit buy. While Thompson Seedless, Muscats, and Ribiers are the most abundant, the season on Tokays is now well under way.

Next in the short parade of best fruit buys are watermelons in good supply and reasonably priced. Lemons, selling considerably below the former ceilings, are an excellent buy, too.

Cantaloups, ranging in quality from ordinary to very good, are reasonably priced for the good ones and low priced on the poorer quality. Together with Persian melons, they make a fair buy.

Getting over to the fall side of things, we find that apples are now a pretty fair buy. There are a number of varieties, such as the Golden Delicious, Jonathan, Bellflower, King David, Winter Banana, late Gravenstein, and a good cooking apple the Rhode Island Greening.

Pears are also a fairly good buy, but the season is rapidly coming to an end on peaches, nectarines and plums.

Pomegranates are now on the market and this morning the first Persimmons showed up.

Onions, Bell peppers and eggplant top the list of best vegetable buys. They should be "musts" on the list of all thrifty shoppers because they are plentiful and low priced. Among the fair buys, we have cabbage, cauliflower, slightly higher priced, cucumbers, slightly less in supply, lower priced and better quality potatoes, celery, Blue Lake snap beans at a more reasonable price. and lettuce.

Both the New Jersey and Puerto Rican varieties of sweetpotatoes are fair to good in quality and lower priced than last week.

(MORE)

Supplies of top grade butter on the wholesale market are scarce, but there's a liberal amount of Grade "B" available. Wholesale prices are up 1 cent on Grade "A" stock and 1/2 cent on Grade "B."

Egg supplies are definitely less as the result of a gradual tapering off in production. However, reports say that production this year is 8 per cent larger than a year ago. Wholesale prices are on an upward swing, with both Grade "A" Large and Medium eggs up 4 cents per dozen from a week ago and Grade "A" Smalls up 6 cents. The wholesale price of Grade "B" Large eggs is only up 1 cent from last week.

On the poultry market a scarcity of young chickens is resulting in higher paying prices. Other classes of poultry and cold storage reserves are being used, as well as supplies of poultry coming in from other areas. Turkeys are arriving on the market in greater numbers with supplies about moderate now.

There's a great deal of talk about meat and many rumors, but according to reports made on the subject, the visible supply of meats in wholesale channels is down considerably from the last couple of months. And at the retail level, the supply is about equal to that of last June.

The current week's kill of beef was largely cows and heifers ranging in quality from Commercial to Canner on cows. Very few fed steers and heifers were available. On veal, offerings were very light because slaughter was hampered by the amount of calves which could be slaughtered under the 1944 September quota system. All lamb and mutton has been rapidly sold with supplies unable to fill daily demands. Quality is running in grades of Good and Choice. Pork is especially scarce and very limited supplies have been available to the retail trade. On the wholesale market, ceiling prices are prevailing.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Sept. 27, 1946)

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 24 -- Grapes continue to hold the limelight of best fruit buys. This week Tokays are more abundant and lower priced, while Thompson Seedless grapes are slightly higher. For jelly making there is a fairly good supply of Concord and Isabella grapes, at least more than we had last year.

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Watermelons in plentiful supply and reasonably priced are running a close second for top honors.

Cantaloups are still a fairly good buy, although a little higher priced. Persian melons are another fairly good buy.

There's still quite a few Bartlett pears available, but anyone interested in canning should get them in jars soon.

Lemons are considerably higher than last week and oranges remain at ceiling.

The season is about at an end on peaches, nectarines, plums, prunes, and blackberries.

Cranberries -- the first of the season -- have arrived, and it's good news to hear that they are lower priced than last year.

For the dinner vegetable plate, there is a plentiful supply of eggplant, onions, and lower priced potatoes. For a dash of color and zest, peppers are abundant, but slightly higher priced.

This week there is an array of vegetables in the fair buy class, namely reasonably priced snap beans, lower priced cauliflower, plenty of celery, slightly lower priced corn, lettuce, tomatoes in a wide range of quality and prices, and sweet potatoes.

Total salable receipts of livestock on the South San Francisco wholesale market last week were considerably larger because about 49 percent more sheep were received. Receipts of all other classes held at about the same scant level as for the previous week. As a result, the current beef slaughter is heifers and cows mostly, with very little steer beef available. Quality is ranging from Commercial to Good, plus a small amount of Choice. Last week's country offerings of dressed veal were possibly as much as 50 percent below those of the past several weeks. Result -- very little veal to be had. With the supply of pork cuts about one-tenth of normal, we can dream about that pork roast, but that's about all because just a few hogs were slaughtered last week. There's a more cheerful thought in knowing that a fairly liberal slaughter of lamb and mutton was reported for last week, with a little wider range in quality.

On butter there's very little change from last week. Supplies are about the same, but in sympathy with higher prices in New York and Chicago, local wholesale prices are up 1 cent per pound on Grade "A" butter.

Egg production is still ahead of last year, even though the supply of fresh eggs coming to market is gradually tapering off. More storage eggs are being put into use. Wholesale prices are up one cent on all grades and sizes from a week ago.

With the exception of turkeys, which are becoming in heavier supply, there is less of all classes of poultry. Since last week, the inside price range has narrowed and wholesale prices on the outside of the price range are up 3 to 5 cents per pound. Colored fowl made the greatest gain of 5 cents, while young hen turkeys are up 1½ cents per pound.

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